January 17, 1958

BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

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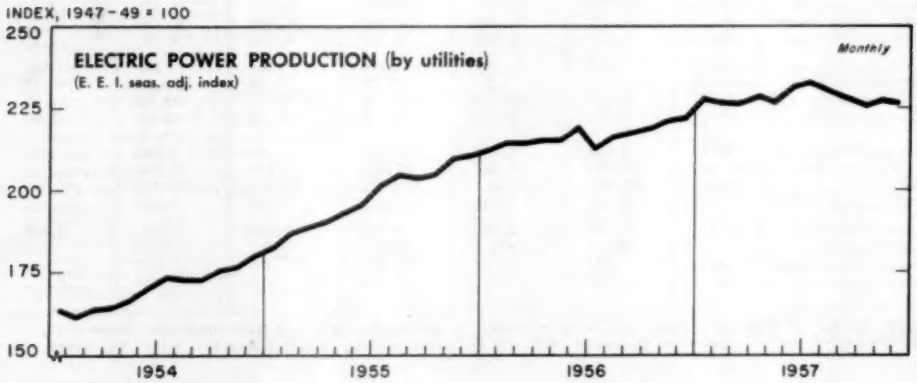
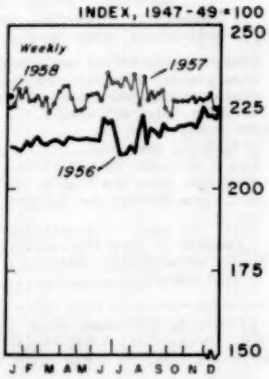
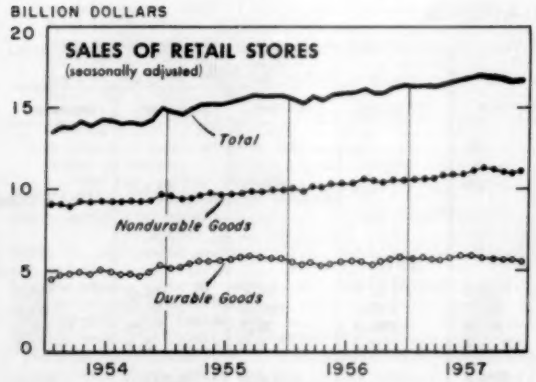
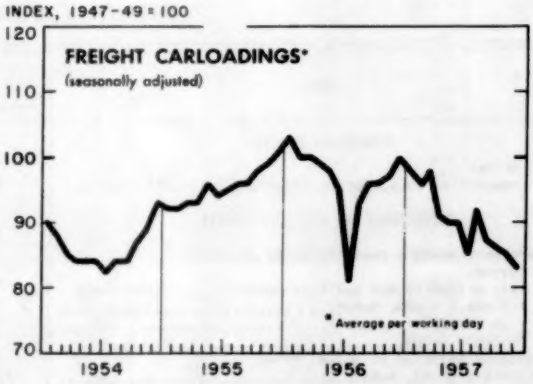
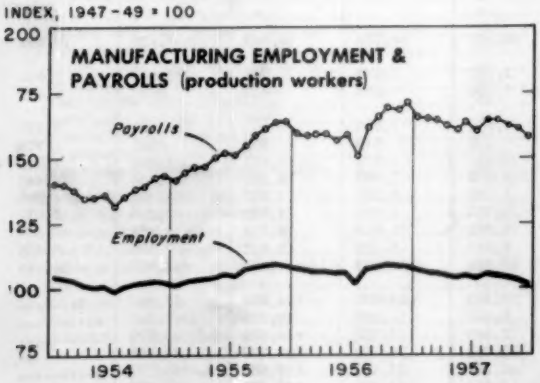
SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

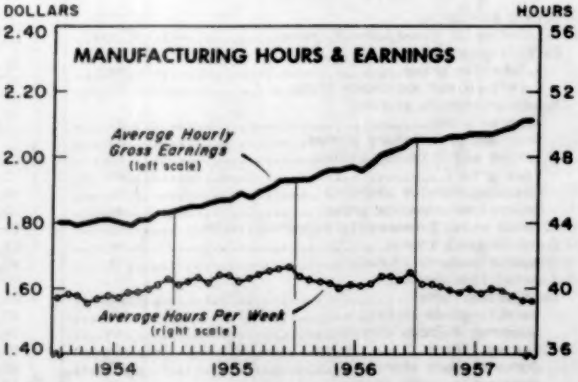












WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS[1]

ITEM	1957				1958	
	Jan. 5	Jan. 12	Dec. 21	Dec. 28	Jan. 4	Jan. 11
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	.....	*116.3	118.2	118.4	118.4	118.5
Farm products.....do....	.....	*88.9	92.7	93.9	93.1	93.6
Foods, processed.....do....	.....	*103.1	107.2	107.5	108.0	108.1
All other.....do....	.....	*124.7	125.8	125.8	125.8	125.8
22 commodities 2/.....do....	**92.5	92.0	84.7	84.7	84.3	84.8
Department store sales.....do....	93	107	274	148	95	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	1,833	1,838	2,086	2,449	.....	.....
State programs.....do....	1,702	1,706	1,922	2,325	.....	.....
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 3/.....mil. of dol..	31,829	31,479	31,973	32,089	31,959	31,553
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 3/....do....	27,524	26,809	26,218	26,687	26,623	26,100
Member bank reserve balances 3/.....do....	19,856	19,701	19,483	19,666	19,707	19,658
Excess reserves, estimated 3/.....do....	746	730	636	714	730	743
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:4/						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	57,629	57,760	56,651	56,169	56,934	.....
Time deposits, except U. S. Government.....do....	22,088	22,204	23,970	24,140	24,306	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	87,634	86,198	88,578	88,487	89,015	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	26,774	26,272	26,010	26,087	26,422	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross)...do....	31,137	30,753	32,305	32,288	32,250	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	8,839	8,832	8,780	8,772	8,762	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	222	256	276	166	203	324
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 3/.....percent..	4.06	4.06	4.29	4.26	4.21	4.17
Stock prices, 500 stocks (Stand. & Poor's) 4/...1941-43=10..	46.20	46.19	39.38	39.52	39.99	40.99
Industrials, 425 stocks.....do....	49.48	49.31	42.19	42.36	42.86	43.93
Production:						
Bituminous coal 3/.....thous. of short tons..	1,854	1,708	1,563	1,138	1,396	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	11,671	12,327	12,412	11,218	11,692	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	102,217	167,451	163,071	92,342	89,357	139,315
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 3/.....thous. of bbl..	7,417	7,396	6,915	6,940	6,863	.....
Steel 5/.....thous. of short tons..	2,490	2,519	1,742	1,366	1,501	1,515
Percent of capacity.....	#97.3	#98.4	#68.1	#53.4	55.6	56.1
Freight carloadings, total.....thous. of cars..	561	681	590	410	472	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	299	349	292	210	241	.....

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Wednesday data. 5/ Week beginning January 13, 1958: Production, 1,538 thous. short tons. * Monthly index for December 1956. ** Wednesday price. # Not comparable with 1958 rates, which are based on higher capacity.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1956		1957			
	November	December	September	October	November	December
COMMODITY PRICES						
Retail price:						
All commodities (U.S.Dept.of Commerce index).1935-39=100..	213.8	213.9	217.5	r217.2	217.3	.....
CONSTRUCTION AND REAL ESTATE						
New permanent nonfarm dwelling units started:						
Unadjusted:						
Total, privately and publicly owned.....thousands..	77.4	63.6	r91.9	95.0	78.0	62.0
Privately owned, total.....do....	77.0	62.9	r90.2	87.0	75.7	60.8
In metropolitan areas.....do....	54.6	44.6	r60.9	58.7	51.5	41.8
Publicly owned.....do....	.4	.7	r1.7	8.0	2.3	1.2
Seasonally adjusted at annual rate:						
Privately owned, total.....do....	1,027.0	1,020.0	r1,012.0	1,000.0	1,010.0	970.0
DOMESTIC TRADE						
All retail stores: 1/						
Estimated sales (unadjusted), total.....mil. of dol..	16,493	19,380	16,373	16,949	r17,126	19,661
Durable-goods stores:						
Automotive group.....do....	2,907	3,122	3,078	2,945	r2,977	2,974
Furniture and appliance group.....do....	1,003	1,194	853	919	r962	1,157
Nondurable-goods stores:						
Apparel group.....do....	1,095	1,694	1,010	1,083	r1,133	1,722
Drug and proprietary stores.....do....	470	632	515	559	r532	703
Eating and drinking places.....do....	1,158	1,201	1,291	1,263	r1,205	1,216
Food group.....do....	3,877	4,052	3,937	4,102	r4,233	4,146
Gasoline service stations.....do....	1,184	1,182	1,262	1,287	r1,262	1,280
General-merchandise group.....do....	2,030	3,033	1,696	1,838	r2,008	3,071
Estimated sales (seasonally adjusted), total.....do....	16,212	16,340	16,919	16,714	r16,556	16,677
Durable-goods stores.....do....	5,664	5,814	5,722	5,612	r5,606	5,486
Nondurable-goods stores.....do....	10,547	10,526	11,197	11,102	r10,950	11,191
Estimated inventories:						
Unadjusted, total.....do....	24,750	22,400	24,270	r24,500	25,260	.....
Durable-goods stores.....do....	10,450	9,940	10,690	10,380	11,040	.....
Nondurable-goods stores.....do....	14,300	12,460	13,580	r14,120	14,220	.....
Adjusted, total.....do....	23,490	23,860	24,360	r24,220	24,290	.....
Durable-goods stores.....do....	10,420	10,700	11,120	r10,950	11,200	.....
Nondurable-goods stores.....do....	13,070	13,160	13,240	r13,270	13,090	.....

r/ Revised. 1/ Data for December 1957 are advance estimates.

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ITEM	1956		1957			
	November	December	September	October	November	December
DOMESTIC TRADE - Continued						
Retail firms with 11 or more stores, estimated sales:						
Unadjusted....mil. of dol..	3,669	4,641	3,337	3,597	3,798	.....
Adjusted....do....	3,404	3,425	3,559	3,458	3,454	.....
Wholesale trade:						
Sales, estimated (unadjusted), total....bil. of dol..	12.0	11.4	11.2	12.3	11.1	.....
Durable-goods establishments....do....	4.5	4.2	4.2	4.5	3.9	.....
Nondurable-goods establishments....do....	7.5	7.2	7.0	7.8	7.1	.....
Inventories, estimated (unadjusted), total....do....	13.2	12.9	12.8	12.9	13.0	.....
Durable-goods establishments....do....	6.4	6.3	6.7	6.6	6.6	.....
Nondurable-goods establishments....do....	6.8	6.6	6.1	6.3	6.4	.....
EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES						
Civilian labor force, total (Bureau of Census) 1/ .thousands..	67,732	67,029	68,225	68,513	68,061	67,770
Employed....do....	65,269	64,550	65,674	66,005	64,873	64,396
Agricultural employment....do....	6,192	5,110	6,518	6,837	5,817	5,385
Nonagricultural employment....do....	59,076	59,440	59,156	59,168	59,057	59,012
Unemployed....do....	2,463	2,479	2,552	2,508	3,188	3,374
Employees in nonagricultural establishments:						
Total, unadjusted (U. S. Department of Labor)....do....	53,007	53,639	53,152	r53,043	r52,807	p52,992
Manufacturing....do....	17,180	17,159	16,905	r16,783	r16,581	p16,333
Mining....do....	837	837	853	837	r829	p820
Contract construction....do....	3,174	2,997	3,285	r3,224	r3,059	p2,833
Transportation and public utilities....do....	4,184	4,194	4,206	r4,159	r4,123	p4,100
Wholesale and retail trade....do....	11,657	12,260	11,620	r11,664	r11,845	p12,324
Finance, insurance, and real estate....do....	2,314	2,308	2,361	r2,356	r2,356	p2,353
Service and miscellaneous....do....	6,327	6,295	6,541	r6,547	r6,515	p6,480
Government....do....	7,334	7,589	7,381	r7,473	r7,499	p7,749
Production workers in manufacturing industries:						
Total....do....	13,392	13,350	12,992	r12,893	r12,719	p12,482
Durable-goods industries....do....	7,839	7,827	7,397	r7,389	r7,318	p7,160
Ordnance and accessories....do....	82	83	73	r70	68	p68
Lumber and wood products (except furniture)....do....	655	628	631	r623	r598	p575
Furniture and fixtures....do....	320	320	319	317	312	p307
Stone, clay, and glass products....do....	470	465	461	456	r448	p438
Primary metal industries....do....	1,134	1,135	1,061	r1,049	r1,028	p1,004
Fabricated metal products....do....	911	908	878	889	r888	p874
Machinery (except electrical)....do....	1,262	1,277	1,186	r1,166	r1,144	p1,123
Electrical machinery....do....	913	900	879	r869	853	p825
Transportation equipment....do....	1,438	1,478	1,278	r1,321	r1,364	p1,362
Instruments and related products....do....	235	233	225	r223	r223	p217
Nondurable-goods industries....do....	5,553	5,523	5,595	r5,504	r5,401	p5,322
Food and kindred products....do....	1,125	1,076	1,218	r1,143	r1,074	p1,031
Tobacco manufactures....do....	96	93	98	94	r86	p82
Textile-mill products....do....	955	948	912	r906	r893	p886
Apparel and other finished textile products....do....	1,092	1,093	1,084	1,075	r1,072	p1,063
Paper and allied products....do....	470	472	469	r470	r468	p465
Printing, publishing, and allied products....do....	564	566	563	567	r566	p565
Chemicals and allied products....do....	546	547	533	r532	r529	p527
Products of petroleum and coal....do....	176	174	175	r173	r172	p168
Rubber products....do....	194	216	206	r210	r209	p204
Leather and leather products....do....	335	338	336	334	333	p331
Manufacturing production-worker indexes:						
Employment: Unadjusted....1947-49=100..	108.3	107.9	105.0	r104.2	r102.8	p100.9
Adjusted....do....	107.4	107.5	103.3	r102.8	r102.0	p100.5
Payrolls, unadjusted....do....	168.2	171.4	164.7	r162.6	r161.1	p158.1
Hours and earnings:						
Average weekly hours per worker, all manufacturing..hours..	40.5	41.0	39.9	39.5	r39.3	p39.3
Durable-goods industries....do....	41.2	41.9	40.2	r39.8	r39.7	p39.6
Nondurable-goods industries....do....	39.6	39.7	39.6	r39.0	38.7	p38.9
Average weekly earnings, all manufacturing....dollars..	82.22	84.05	82.99	82.56	r82.92	p82.92
Durable-goods industries....do....	88.99	91.34	89.24	r88.75	r88.93	p88.70
Nondurable-goods industries....do....	72.86	73.84	75.24	r74.10	74.30	p74.69
Average hourly earnings, all manufacturing....do....	2.03	2.05	2.08	2.09	r2.11	p2.11
Durable-goods industries....do....	2.16	2.18	2.22	2.23	2.24	p2.24
Ordnance and accessories....do....	2.25	2.27	2.37	2.38	2.39	p2.38
Lumber and wood products (except furniture)....do....	1.77	1.74	1.84	r1.84	r1.83	p1.81
Furniture and fixtures....do....	1.72	1.73	1.77	r1.77	1.75	p1.76
Stone, clay, and glass products....do....	2.01	2.01	2.08	r2.09	2.10	p2.10
Primary metal industries....do....	2.44	2.45	2.57	2.55	2.55	p2.53
Fabricated metal products....do....	2.12	2.14	2.22	2.22	r2.23	p2.22
Machinery (except electrical)....do....	2.25	2.27	2.32	2.33	2.34	p2.34
Electrical machinery....do....	2.03	2.05	2.07	2.08	r2.10	p2.10
Transportation equipment....do....	2.39	2.43	2.46	2.47	2.50	p2.52
Instruments and related products....do....	2.05	2.07	2.14	2.14	r2.14	p2.15
Nondurable-goods industries....do....	1.84	1.86	1.90	1.90	1.92	p1.92
Food and kindred products....do....	1.89	1.90	1.92	1.94	r1.96	p1.97
Tobacco manufactures....do....	1.45	1.48	1.46	1.47	1.54	p1.57
Textile-mill products....do....	1.50	1.50	1.51	1.51	1.51	p1.50
Apparel and other finished textile products....do....	1.48	1.50	1.51	r1.49	r1.50	p1.50
Paper and allied products....do....	1.98	1.99	2.08	r2.08	r2.08	p2.08
Printing, publishing, and allied industries....do....	2.45	2.46	2.53	2.53	2.53	p2.55
Chemicals and allied products....do....	2.15	2.16	2.25	2.24	r2.26	p2.27
Products of petroleum and coal....do....	2.57	2.57	2.73	2.71	r2.73	p2.73
Rubber products....do....	2.17	2.24	2.29	2.32	r2.33	p2.32
Leather and leather products....do....	1.52	1.52	1.55	1.55	1.57	p1.56

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Estimates beginning January 1957 reflect certain changes made in the definitions for employment and unemployment, etc. Figures for December 1957, comparable with data through December 1956, in order as above (thous.): 67,792; 64,652; 5,391; 59,262; 3,140.

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ITEM	1956		1957			
	November	December	September	October	November	December
FINANCE						
Security markets (Standard and Poor's Corporation):						
Bonds:						
Prices:						
Industrial, utility, and railroad (Aa+ issues):						
Composite (21 bonds).....dol. per $100 bond..	103.7	102.8	98.0	98.2	98.3	102.7
Domestic municipal (15 bonds).....do....	109.0	108.1	101.3	102.9	103.4	107.5
Yields, domestic municipal (15 bonds).....percent..	3.38	3.44	3.90	3.79	3.76	3.47
Stocks:						
Dividend yields, preferred stocks (14 high-grade)..do....	4.56	4.63	4.79	4.80	4.78	4.49
Prices:						
Combined index (500 stocks).....1941-43=10..	45.76	46.44	43.98	41.24	40.35	40.33
Industrial (425 stocks).....do....	48.92	49.79	47.52	44.43	43.41	43.29
Capital goods (129 stocks).....do....	48.27	49.59	46.32	43.24	41.87	41.35
Consumers' goods (196 stocks).....do....	33.60	33.38	32.75	31.55	30.52	30.29
Public utility (50 stocks).....do....	31.82	31.70	31.09	30.39	30.68	31.79
Railroad (25 stocks).....do....	31.73	31.75	27.17	24.78	22.63	21.39
LUMBER AND MANUFACTURES						
Lumber (National Lumber Manufacturers Association):						
Production, total.....mil. of bd. ft..	2,954	2,520	2,883	3,024	2,493	.....
Softwoods.....do....	2,382	2,002	2,354	2,506	2,035	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	2,802	2,375	2,866	3,091	2,473	.....
Softwoods.....do....	2,278	1,898	2,341	2,543	1,964	.....
Stocks (gross), mill, end of month, total.....do....	9,629	9,777	9,672	9,611	9,602	.....
Softwoods.....do....	6,010	6,117	5,880	5,849	5,892	.....
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Steel products, net shipments:						
Total (all grades).....thous. of short tons..	7,431	7,064	6,172	6,551	5,606	.....
Semifinished products.....do....	390	399	261	263	242	.....
Structural shapes (heavy), steel piling.....do....	569	564	597	641	589	.....
Plates.....do....	775	607	778	764	462	.....
Rails and accessories.....do....	197	214	90	143	133	.....
Bars and tool steel, total.....do....	1,218	1,166	836	896	783	.....
Bars: Hot rolled (incl. light shapes).....do....	820	788	545	617	538	.....
Reinforcing.....do....	250	240	182	163	142	.....
Cold finished.....do....	139	129	101	110	96	.....
Pipe and tubing.....do....	931	915	860	889	736	.....
Wire and wire products.....do....	298	263	250	264	227	.....
Tin mill products (incl. black plate).....do....	451	406	417	370	321	.....
Sheets and strip (incl. electrical), total.....do....	2,602	2,532	2,011	2,319	2,113	.....
Sheets: Hot rolled.....do....	802	826	579	651	616	.....
Cold rolled.....do....	1,189	1,130	979	1,147	1,025	.....
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT						
Motor vehicles, factory sales, total.....number..	667,187	700,740	380,609	379,316	676,949	.....
Coaches, total.....do....	233	228	243	233	241	.....
Domestic.....do....	186	103	187	232	206	.....
Passenger cars, total.....do....	576,708	617,599	318,279	291,064	583,783	.....
Domestic.....do....	556,931	598,394	315,008	282,510	560,141	.....
Trucks, total.....do....	90,246	82,913	62,087	88,019	92,925	.....
Domestic.....do....	74,870	66,123	51,016	73,707	78,928	.....

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